

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 243382

E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: COUNSELLING STATEMENT

FOR SENIOR CIVIL COORDINATOR AND SHEPLEY

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE OFFICIAL TEXT OF A COUNSELLING STATEMENT. IT SHOULD BE TRANSLATED INTO VIETNAMESE. COPIES SHOULD BE MADE FOR EACH COUNSELLOR BUT SHOULD BE SAFEGUARDED UNTIL COUNSELLING BEGINS. COPIES CAN BE PROVIDED TO RED CROSS AND OTHER OBSERVERS AS COUNSELLING BEGINS. THIS STATEMENT SHOULD NOT BE RELEASED TO THE PRESS EVEN AFTER THE SHIP DEPARTS. WE WILL HAVE A SHORT SUMMARY FOR RELEASE IF ASKED IN WASHINGTON AFTER SHIP DEPARTS.

2. TEXT OF COUNSELLING STATEMENT:

1) THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES RESPECTS YOUR DESIRE AS WELL AS THOSE OF A NUMBER OF OTHER VIETNAMESE REFUGEES TO BE REPATRIATED. THE US GOVERNMENT IS CONTINUING TO WORK WITH THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) TO SEE TO THE EARLY REPATRIATION OF THOSE REFUGEES DESIRING TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND. WHILE THE UNHCR HAS HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES, CONFIDENTIAL

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AT PRESENT, THERE IS STILL NO CLEAR INDICATION IF AND WHEN

THOSE NEGOTIATIONS WILL PERMIT YOUR RETURN.

1) YOU KNOW, OF COURSE, THAT THE AUTHORITIES IN VIETNAM HAVE CONDEMNED THE US GOVERNMENT FOR PERMITTING REFUGEES TO REPATRIATE ON THE VESSEL SSVN THUONG TIN I. THE US GOVERNMENT HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT, IF ANY, PROBLEMS AWAIT YOU UPON YOUR RETURN TO VIETNAM. BECAUSE OF THIS THE US GOVERNMENT WISHES TO REMIND YOU THAT YOUR DECISION TO TRAVEL ON THAT VESSEL IS YOUR OWN. THIS MATTER, HOWEVER, SHOULD BE WEIGHED MOST CAREFULLY. ONCE AGAIN, WE WISH TO REMIND YOU THAT SHOULD YOU DECIDE NOT TO TRAVEL ON THE SSVN THUONG TIN I TO ACCOMPLISH REPATRIATION, IN THE FUTURE YOU MAY BE ABLE TO REPATRIATE VIA THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE UNHCR.

(OPTIONAL - USE IF REFUGEE SHOWS ANY
HESITANCY ABOUT BOARDING SHIP)

3. NOW, YOU HAVE THREE CHOICES:

A. IF YOU DECIDE TO REPATRIATE ON THE SSVN THUONG TIN I YOU WILL BE IMMEDIATELY MOVED TO A HOLDING AREA NEXT TO THAT SHIP.

B. IF YOU DECIDE NOT TO REPATRIATE ON THE SHIP, YOU WILL STAY FOR A SHORT WHILE IN A GUAM CAMP. THEN YOU WILL BE MOVED TO THE USA AND RESETTLED WITH AN AMERICAN SPONSOR IN MAINLAND USA. YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REMAIN IN CAMP. YOU WILL BE ABLE TO KEEP YOUR APPLICATION FOR REPATRIATION OPEN WITH THE UNHCR UNTIL SUCH TIME AS REPATRIATION MAY BE ARRANGED UNDER UNHCR AEGIS.

C. OR, IF YOU WANT MORE TIME TO THINK THIS OVER, YOU WILL BE DIRECTED TO A NEARBY AREA WHERE YOU CAN, IF YOU WISH, DISCUSS YOUR FINAL DECISION WITH A US GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE US RED CROSS. DEPENDING ON YOUR FINAL DECISION YOU WILL EITHER BE MOVED TO THE SHIP OR TO A TEMPORARY CAMP. KISSINGER

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